To Prof. E. C. Kyte.
Kingston.

Records of
A. C. Casselman,
Oct. 3. 1929.

A VETERAN OF 1812.

JONATHAN PHILLIPS.

Another old settler in the Bay of Quinte region and a veteran of the war of 1812, has been laid with his cotemporaries and companions in arms. As an humble, though representative man, of a class of our population that is gradually disappearing from the scene of active life, the subject of this sketch calls for a somewhat lengthy notice. A few years more and there will not be a living witness of the times and the actions of the resolute men who laid the foundation of our present institutions, by maintaining the connection of the present British American Province with the mother country. The danger that threatened Canada at the commencement of the war of 1812, is perhaps not at the present day fully appreciated. It has, however, been frequently dwelt upon, but we live too near

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the time to regard, in a true light, the effect that an adverse issue of the sharp contest then waged would have produced. Our position, at the above mentioned eventful period, is well described in the following extract from an address delivered by the late Hon. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of Brock's Monument, on the 13th October, 1853:

"It will be in the recollection of many now "present, that in the commencement of the "war of 1812, only one regiment of British "troops, the 49th, was left to defend Upper "Canada, from Kingston to Michilimackinac, "a distance of one thousand miles, and dur- "ing the whole campaign, only two compa- "nies of the 49th could be spared on this "frontier.* Although this fact is one of the "most striking events connected with that

* Recruiting and drilling were being briskly carried on about Quebec and Montreal. Some troops began to arrive, about the beginning of March, 1813, from the Lower Provinces. The 104th Regiment had arrived overland from Frederickton in New Brunswick, by the valley of the St. John's river, through an impenetrable forest, for hundreds of miles, to Lake Temiscouta, and from thence to Reviere-du-Loup, proceeding upwards along the south shore of the St. Lawrence.—*Rogers' History of Canada.*

"war, it has never yet been brought promi-
"nently before the public; yet it clearly
"proves that the defence of Canada, then
"rested with its inhabitants. We find that
"though they consisted principally of the old
"U. E. Loyalists and their descendants, the
"native indians who had been dispossessed
"of their possessions in the United States,
"and their descendants, together with resi-
"dents from the United States—emigration
"from the Mother country not having been
"commenced to any extent,—a population
"thus composed, not exceeding in Upper
"Canada, at most 90,000, without troops,
"without munitions of war, without resour-
"ces, and without the least expectation of any
"timely aid from the mother country, with a
"few troops, unable to contend against a
"powerful nation, numbering about 8,000,000
"with munitions of war, and resources with-
"out limit, within a comparatively short dis-
"tance from maratime cities, also numerous
"forces at command, of which they were not
"slow of apprising us, in the proclamations
"circulated from time to time,—it was under

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"those circumstances that the character and "ability of Sir Isaac Brock were brought to "light. Well knowing on whom he had to "depend for the defence of the country, he "directed his personal attention to the cloth- "ing, arms, equipment, mess, and personal "comfort of the militia, and took every op- "portunity of gaining the good will of the "Indians."

Of the Provincial troops, the Glengary Regiment of Infantry took perhaps the most active part. At the age of 15, Jouathan Phillips enlisted in this corps, then being raised throughout Cannda. The urgent necessity for recruits inducing the authorities to accept youths even of that tender age. The story will best be told, as nearly as may be, in the veteran's own words. "I was born in Duchess County, State of New York, in the year 1796; my father came from Devonshire, England, and my mother from Edinburgh, Scotland.— In 1809 my parents removed to Canada and settled in Fredericksburgh, County of Lennox & Addington. In January, 1812, I was working for Mr. — Chapman, in Fredericksburgh,

getting out square pine, oak, and staves; whilst thus employed, Capt. Judkins, formerly of the 104th Regiment of the Line, asked me to enlist, and I joined the Glengarys, and in a few days after was sent to Kingston with about twenty other recruits from Fredericksburgh, Richmond, and Ernestown. We remained in Kingston till navigation opened, when the recruits assembled at that place, about 200 in all, descended the St. Lawrence in batteaux to Three Rivers, where we received uniforms, arms and accoutrements, and commenced to learn our drill. The corps now numbered about 800.

Towards autumn we were ordered to Quebec, in charge of about 1000 prisoners from General Hull's army, captured in the West. We remained at Quebec a month or six weeks. In October, 1812, we were ordered to the West, (the season is recalled from the recollection that as they marched from Quebec the farmers were busy cutting wheat on the hillsides, and the snow was falling at the time.) The march was by the North shore road to Montreal. Here we remained all winter, ex-

pecting the Americans to attack that city.—
the month of March, before the sleighing was gone, the regiment was ordered to King-
on, taking with them several pieces of cannon, which were drawn by oxen. The men marched. The cattle that drew the cannon and baggage, were slaughtered at Kingston for provisions. We remained a month at Kingston, and then passed up the Bay of Quinte to the Carrying Place in batteaux. The baggage and batteaux were transported across the isthmus into Lake Ontario, and we re-embarked for York. On our arrival at York we were forwarded with all despatch to Burlington Bay. We first met the Yankees at Stoney Creek, and then pushed on towards Fort George. We halted at the village of St. Davids, and encamped at the cross-roads.—The Yankees held Fort George: when they discovered we were so near them they retreated upon Black Creek. We followed them up, and had a battle with them at Lundy's Lane, on 25th July, 1813. In this affair I was in the advance guard, or reconnoitering party. The enemy retreated upon Fort Erie, and we

pursued them and had several skirmishes with them. They blew up the Fort and evacuated Canada. In the fall of the year we marched back to York; there we embarked in batteaux and came to the Carrying-Place—thence we crossed into the Bay of Quinte and thence by batteaux to Kingston. From Kingston we marched to Adolphustown Court House, and were billeted upon the farmers in that vicinity during the ensuing winter. There were from eight to ten men in each house. Whilst here we assembled every day at the Court House, at 10 A.M., for drill,—we were at least 800 strong.*

On the 23rd March, 1814, all the three years' men were paraded at the Court House, paid off, and discharged. Each man so discharged drew 100 acres of land in Upper Canada, farming utensils, and a year's pro-

* Our uniform was of bottle green coloured cloth, with three rows of white metal bell-buttons on the coat. The buttons bore as arms the rose, shamrock and thistle, and the words "Canadian Light Infantry Fencibles, R. G." In the summer we wore bucket-shaped hats, with peaks and a green cockade. In winter we wore fur caps, with a long green cloth thanging from the top over the left shoulder, and at the end of this green cloth a green tassel. J.P.

visions. The provisions were destributed every three months at Robert Charles Wilkins' store, at the Carrying-place."

From the time of his discharge till his decease, Phillips resided in the County of Hastings, pursuing the usual occupation of the first settlers of this County. For many years he followed "lumbering" in winter and farming in the summer seasons, but being trustworthy, intelligent, and of a kindly disposition, his services were frequently sought after for various purposes. Several years ago the farm which he drew for his military service, and which for many years afforded him a home and a support, he sold for the sum of $1,900, thus enjoying in his old age the well earned reward of the loyalty and courage of his youth. He died at his home, in the 2nd Con Rawdon, on the 15th February, 1868, and was interred in the Wesleyan Methodist burying ground, at the chapel in the 5th Con. Sidney.

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